

Case 2717

***Steno attenuatus* Gray, 1846 (currently *Stenella attenuata*; Mammalia, Cetacea): proposed conservation of the specific name**

William F. Perrin

Southwest Fisheries Center, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, California 92038, U.S.A.

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the pantropical spotted dolphin, *Stenella attenuata* (Gray, 1846), the type species of *Stenella* Gray, 1866. The specific name is threatened by three subjective synonyms, only one of which has been mentioned (as a probable synonym) during this century.

1. The currently used specific name of the pantropical spotted dolphin, *Stenella attenuata* (Gray, 1846), has a number of subjective synonyms. These include *Delphinus velox* G. Cuvier, 1829, *D. pseudodelphis* Schlegel, 1841, *D. brevimanus* Wagner, 1846, and *Steno capensis* Gray, 1865. It is not known which of the two names *attenuatus* Gray, 1846 or *brevimanus* Wagner, 1846 has priority.

2. The name *Delphinus velox* was proposed for a new species of dolphin by G. Cuvier in 1829. It was used by Fischer (1830, p. 455), F. Cuvier (1836, p. 154), Rapp (1837, p. 30), and was mentioned by Gray (1850, p. 132, where it appeared as a 'species requiring further examination') and Pucheran (1856, pp. 453–456). Trouessart (1898, p. 1035) placed it tentatively as a synonym of *D. malayanus* Lesson in Lesson & Garnot, 1826 (p. 184, pl. 9, fig. 5), considered by Perrin et al. (1987, p. 111) to be a nomen nudum (but more properly a nomen dubium). Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951, p. 732) repeated Trouessart's synonymy. Hershkovitz (1966, p. 32) placed *D. velox* as a synonym of *D. dubius* G. Cuvier, 1812 (p. 14; also considered to be a nomen nudum by Perrin et al. (1987, p. 111), but, again, more properly a nomen dubium). Perrin et al. (1987, p. 112) identified the holotype specimen of *D. velox* (a mounted skin in the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, No. 17 of the *Catalogue de la Galerie de Zoologie*) as a pantropical spotted dolphin, *Stenella attenuata*. The specific name *velox* G. Cuvier, 1829 is therefore a senior subjective synonym of *attenuatus* Gray, 1846, but the former has not been applied to spotted dolphins during this century.

3. The name *Delphinus pseudodelphis* was used by Wagner (1846, p. 332) in his revision of Schreber's *Säugethiere*. Wagner ascribed the name to Wiegmann and stated that it was based on the plate (pl. 358) of three views of a skull, which he was now publishing, and that Wiegmann had not provided a description. Volume 7 of the work, in which the name appeared, was begun by Wiegmann, continued by Stannius, and finished by Wagner (Wagner, 1846, p. iv) and was finally published in 1846 (see also Sherborn, 1891, p. 591). Wiegmann's plates, however, were ready several years earlier, and Schlegel (1841, p. 22) referred to '*Delphinus pseudodelphis*, Wiegman [sic] im Schreber, Säugth. Tab. 358'. Schlegel compared the skull with that of other species and considered that it was closest to *D. malayanus*. He ascribed a skull in the collections of

the Leiden museum to the species. Wagner (1846, p. 332) further described the skull and cited Schlegel's paragraph. Schlegel's 1841 work makes the name *pseudodelphis* available and it should therefore be attributed to him, although hitherto authors have ascribed authorship to Wiegmann '1840 or earlier' (Hershkovitz, 1966, p. 32), or Wiegmann in Schreber (1846). Gray (1850, p. 130), True (1889, pp. 67, 69) and Beddard (1900, p. 260) considered it to be a synonym of *attenuatus*, while Trouessart (1898, p. 1035) thought it was a synonym of *malayanus*. Later, True (1894, pp. 36–37) considered *pseudodelphis* to be a nomen nudum. Oliver (1922, p. 583) stated that 'probably it should be united with *S [tenella] malayanus* Lesson (1826) and *S. fraenatus* F. Cuvier (1836)' (actually *D. froenatus* G. Cuvier, 1829, regarded by Perrin et al. (1987, p. 112) as a junior synonym of *Delphinus* (now *Stenella) frontalis* G. Cuvier, 1829). Hershkovitz (1966, p. 32) placed the species in the synonymy of *dubius* G. Cuvier, 1812. Perrin et al. (1987, p. 113) identified the skull in the original illustration published by Wagner as that of a pantropical spotted dolphin, the name *pseudodelphis* therefore being a senior subjective synonym of *attenuatus* Gray, 1846. They recommended that as *pseudodelphis* had been discussed only once in this century (by Oliver, 1922, p. 583, in a qualified way, as mentioned above) it should not be resurrected.

4. The name *Delphinus brevimanus* was used by Wagner in 1846 in the caption to a colored plate of a dolphin (pl. 361, fig. 2) and in the index of plates (p. 427). A plate of a dolphin (pl. 21, fig. 2), together with views of a skull (pl. 23, figs. 7 and 8), both labeled 'Dauphin à Petites Pectorales', appeared in the zoological part of the *Atlas of the Voyage au Pôle Sud, Astrolabe et la Zélée* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1842–1853). Subsequently, the text of the zoological part was published (1853) and the species was referred to (p. 38) as 'Dauphin à Petites Pectorales Hombron & Jacquinot, pl. 21, fig. 2; *Delphinus brevimanus* Wagner, Schreb. Säug., pl. 361, fig. 2'. The skull figured by Hombron & Jacquinot is No. 1882–113 in the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle in Paris. Gray based his species *Delphinus? microbachium* (1850, p. 119) on this skull and referred to Hombron & Jacquinot's plates; he subsequently included the species as *Steno? brevimanus* in his 1866 *Catalogue of Seals and Whales* (p. 236; reference 1866a) but not in his 1868 *Synopsis*. *D. brevimanus* was also included by Gervais (1877, p. 605). True (1889, p. 67) placed it in the synonymy of *malayanus*, as also did Trouessart (1898, p. 1035). It was not recognized by Beddard (1900). Hershkovitz (1966, p. 33) thought it a synonym of *dubius*, while Perrin et al. (1987, p. 114) placed it in the synonymy of *attenuatus*. The name *brevimanus* has not been used as a senior synonym during this century.

5. The specific name *attenuatus* was first used by Gray in 1843 (p. 105) in combination with *Delphinus* but without description or figure and it was, therefore, a nomen nudum. Gray subsequently (1846, p. 44, pl. 28), based *attenuatus* on a juvenile skull of unknown provenance, No. 347b, in the British Museum (Natural History) and included it in his new genus *Steno* (1846, p. 43). The specific name *attenuatus* has been widely used for the pantropical spotted dolphin for many years. After its application by True to spotted dolphins from the Atlantic (1889, p. 165), the Indian Ocean (1894) and the Pacific (1903, p. 43), it was used by Fraser (1950), Hohn & Hammond (1985), Honacki et al. (1982, p. 296), the International Whaling Commission (1977–1988), Jones et al. (1986, p. 17), Leatherwood et al. (1983, p. 230), Miyazaki et al. (1974), Nishiwaki (1967, pp. 5, 36), Nishiwaki et al. (1965), Nowak & Paradiso (1983, p. 877 and others), Perrin (1975a, pp. 125, 128; 1975b, pp. 1061–1063; 1984, pp. 137, 138;

1988), Perrin et al. (1976; 1979; 1985, pp. 4, 21, 23), Rice (1977, pp. 8, 13) and others. Substitution of any of the synonyms *velox*, *pseudodelphis* or *brevimanus* for *attenuatus* would upset long-standing nomenclatural stability for this well-known pantropical species and cause considerable confusion in the zoological literature, in legal and institutional documentation, and in the legislative language relating to conservation and management of the species.

6. The name *Delphinus capensis* Gray, 1828 (p. 2) was based on a dolphin skin from the Cape of Good Hope in the British Museum (Natural History). Subsequently, Gray (1865, p. 522) proposed the name *Steno capensis* for a dolphin skull in the South African Museum, Cape Town which was later presented to the British Museum (Natural History). The two specific names *capensis* were proposed for species included in different genera (*Delphinus* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Steno* Gray, 1846) and are still regarded as distinct today. *Delphinus capensis* Gray, 1828 is presently treated as a junior synonym of *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Hershkovitz, 1966, p. 43). True (1889, p. 62), Hershkovitz (1966, p. 33) and Perrin (1987, p. 150) listed *S. capensis* Gray, 1865 as a junior subjective synonym of *attenuatus*. There is thus no doubt that *Delphinus capensis* Gray, 1828 is not a senior subjective synonym or secondary homonym of *Steno capensis* Gray, 1865.

7. The name *Prodelphinus* was proposed by Gervais (in Van Beneden & Gervais, 1880, p. 604) for a genus distinct from *Delphinus* by the absence of deep palatine lateral grooves. True (1889, pp. 61–62) included 23 species in the genus, including *attenuatus*. Subsequently, Oliver (1922, p. 582) adopted *Stenella*, a name proposed by Gray (1866b, p. 213) for the single species *Steno attenuatus*, as a name senior to *Prodelphinus*. *Stenella* was poorly defined and was not listed by Simpson (1945) but under Article 12(b)(5) of the Code is an available name. Following its use by Iredale & Troughton (1934, p. 65), Fraser (1950), Fraser & Purves (1960), and others it has been universally accepted (see, for example, Corbet & Hill (1986, p. 123)). *Steno* Gray, 1846 is now confined to a single species, *Steno bredanensis* Lesson, 1828 (a replacement name for *Delphinus rostratus* Desmarest, 1817 which was preoccupied), the rough-toothed dolphin with a wide distribution in tropical and warm temperate seas (Hershkovitz, 1966, p. 15).

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *velox* G. Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen *Delphinus velox*;
 - (b) *pseudodelphis* Schlegel, 1841, as published in the binomen *Delphinus pseudodelphis*;
 - (c) *brevimanus* Wagner, 1846, as published in the binomen *Delphinus brevimanus*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Stenella* Gray, 1866 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Steno attenuatus* Gray, 1846;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *attenuatus* Gray, 1846, as published in the binomen *Steno attenuatus* (specific name of the type species of *Stenella* Gray, 1866);

- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *velox* G. Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen *Delphinus velox* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *pseudodelphis* Schlegel, 1841, as published in the binomen *Delphinus pseudodelphis* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above;
 - (c) *brevimanus* Wagner, 1846, as published in the binomen *Delphinus brevimanus* and as suppressed in (1)(c) above.

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